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Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Report of the Secretary-General*

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/12 of 27 October 1999, in which the Assembly, taking note with appreciation of the resolutions adopted and activities carried out by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in support of United Nations activities in the field of peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights, democracy, governance and gender issues, welcomed the support provided to the United Nations by national parliaments through their world organization and expressed the wish that the cooperation between the United Nations and IPU would be further strengthened and enhanced in the third millennium.

2. The report describes the action taken by the two organizations to secure parliamentary input to recent major United Nations events, as well as the parliamentary action, coordinated by IPU, to support or complement the work of the United Nations, in particular in the areas referred to above.

3. The report also highlights the variety and scope of the cooperation between the two organizations. It demonstrates the potential for a greater contribution by national parliaments, through IPU, to the work of the United Nations, and to disseminating an understanding of that work and ensuring the requisite follow-up. As the United Nations proceeds with its structural reform, the Secretary-General welcomes this cooperation as part of the response to the concerns expressed by civil society.

II. Contribution of Parliaments to major United Nations events

A. Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments, held in conjunction with the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations

4. In resolution 54/12, the General Assembly welcomed the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/54/379) on the preparatory work done by IPU, with its support, to hold the Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments, in conjunction with the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations.

* The footnote requested by the General Assembly in resolution 54/248 was not included in the submission.

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5. The Secretary-General followed closely the preparations for the Conference and lent his full support to the organization of this significant event.

6. The Conference was held in the General Assembly Hall from 30 August to 1 September 2000, as a prelude to the Millennium Assembly of Heads of State and Government. Some 150 presiding officers from 138 countries, together with nearly 1,000 parliamentary delegates took part.

7. In resolution 54/12, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to examine the possibilities of inviting IPU to report to the Millennium Assembly on the outcome of the Conference. By resolution 54/281 of 15 August 2000, the General Assembly agreed that a representative of the Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments should be included in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the Millennium Summit.

8. In its final declaration, the Conference of Presiding Officers confirmed the need for increasing parliamentary contribution to international relations and in particular to the work of the United Nations system.

B. Annual parliamentary hearing on the United Nations

9. As part of the continuing effort to intensify dialogue between the two organizations, the Secretary-General and Under-Secretaries-General responsible for political, economic and social and humanitarian affairs held a parliamentary hearing, on 26 October 1999, with members of parliaments attending the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly. The President of the Assembly and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also participated. This annual meeting is a practice of long standing and affords members of parliament from all corners of the world a greater understanding of United Nations procedures and objectives while allowing the United Nations to hear the views of members of parliament on the substantive issues that it considers.

C. Contribution of IPU to recent United Nations summit meetings

10. Over the past five years, IPU has encouraged parliamentary action in support of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development, and has compiled information on such action in the form of surveys,[1] financially supported by UNDP, that were made available to all parliaments and Governments with a view to encouraging further initiatives. It also mobilized parliamentary support for the follow-up to the two conferences and organized, on the occasion of each of the two corresponding special sessions of the General Assembly, an event involving members of parliament. A tripartite consultation of Governments, parliaments and international organizations, on the theme "Democracy through partnership between men and women", was held in New York, in cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, on 7 June, during the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. A meeting for parliamentarians was organized at Geneva, on 27 June, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization, during the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly.

11. Both events provided evidence that, for the agenda to move forward, the active contribution of the world's parliaments is indeed crucial. Against that background, the further initiatives for social development, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution S-24/2 of 1 July 2000, call for parliamentary legislative and awareness-raising action necessary for implementing the 10 commitments resulting from the World Summit for Social Development[2] and encourages the contribution of IPU in that effort.

III. Peace and security

A. Nuclear weapons

12. At the IPU Conference held at Amman in April/May 2000, IPU continued its support to the United Nations disarmament efforts and reaffirmed the importance of parliamentary action to encourage all countries to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty in order to ensure its entry into force as soon as possible.

B. Anti-personnel mines

13. The efforts of the United Nations to rid the world of anti-personnel mines continue to be supported by IPU. At its Conference held at Berlin in October 1999, IPU once again urged parliaments to ratify the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, and to adopt the corresponding legislation and measures, including in the form of budgetary allocations.[3] Through its Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, IPU has continued its world survey of parliamentary action to eradicate anti-personnel mines, thus helping the United Nations to monitor progress in that area.

C. Security and cooperation in the Mediterranean

14. IPU has increased its endeavours to promote security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, in tandem with those of the General Assembly. Building upon the process which it started 10 years ago, it held a third plenary Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean at Marseilles, France, from 30 March to 3 April 2000, to take stock of the progress made and to issue recommendations for future action by Governments and parliaments. The final document of the Conference addresses in detail issues related to the three baskets of issues of the process: security and regional stability; co-development and partnership; and dialogue among civilizations and human rights.

D. Dialogue among civilizations and cultures

15. In addition to addressing the question of a dialogue among civilizations and cultures in the context of the above-mentioned process, IPU discussed it in depth during its Conference held at Amman in April/May 2000. Parliamentarians were addressed by Giandomenico Picco, the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Year on Dialogue among Civilizations, who presented an information paper to them for their reference. In its resolution, adopted without a vote, the IPU Conference: welcomed the fact that the General Assembly had proclaimed the year 2001 as the United Nations Year for Dialogue among Civilizations and the decision by the Secretary-General to appoint a personal representative for the year; set forth measures that parliaments and Governments could take to promote inter-cultural respect and dialogue, both nationally and in support of United Nations initiatives; and urged IPU to prepare its contribution to the Year, in coordination with the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other relevant organizations.

E. Middle East

16. IPU contributed to the work of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and participated in the meeting held at Hanoi, from 1 to 3 March 2000, on the theme "Achieving the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people: a key to peace in the Middle East". Through its Committee on Middle East Questions, IPU seeks to encourage a parliamentary dialogue among delegations from the region, in support of the peace process. In addition, in the resolution on the rights of refugees and persons displaced by war and occupation, adopted at its Conference held at Amman in April/May 2000,[4] IPU reiterated its strong support for all efforts to achieve a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

F. Cyprus

17. The IPU group of three facilitators regarding Cyprus once again held joint sessions of leaders and representatives of political parties from both Cypriot sides, in October 1999 and May 2000. These meetings were aimed at furthering inter-communal contacts, which are instrumental in the enhancement of a conducive environment for a political dialogue on the island.

IV. Economic and social development

A. Financing for development

18. In view of the preparation for the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development, which is to take place in 2001, the secretariat of the event and IPU have consulted extensively on ways to provide substantive

parliamentary input both to the process leading up to the event and to the event itself. IPU is urging parliaments to take an active part in this process. With a view to developing a comprehensive political statement on this issue, IPU has also decided to place a substantive item on financing for development and a new paradigm of economic and social development designed to eradicate poverty on the agenda of the IPU Conference which is to be held at Jakarta from 15 to 21 October 2000.

19. IPU provided strong support for United Nations efforts to reduce the debt of developing countries and increase official development assistance. Working in cooperation with UNDP and the World Bank, the IPU Conference, held at Berlin in October 1999, adopted a resolution on the need to revise the current global financial and economic model, which contains many recommendations in that regard.

B. Sustainable development

20. Close consultations have been initiated between the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, and the IPU secretariat to explore the various ways in which the parliamentary community could be involved in the global assessment being planned as a follow-up to the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[5] and in preparation for the 10-year review of Agenda 21 and the Programme in 2002. A key aspect around which cooperation between the United Nations and IPU is likely to develop is the need for parliaments to ensure that the assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21 will integrate economic, social and environmental elements of sustainable development. Further lines of cooperation will be identified by IPU at its Conference to be held at Jakarta in October 2000.

21. The Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continued to work closely together on issues of food security and sustainable agricultural and rural development. At the specialized Inter-parliamentary Conference on the topic "Attaining the objectives of the World Food Summit through a sustainable development strategy", held in Rome at the end of 1998, parliamentarians from 77 States unanimously adopted a final document pledging the full involvement of parliaments and their members in ensuring that countries honoured the commitments made at the World Food Summit in 1996. They approved specific recommendations to create an enabling environment for food security, to meet the dual demands of producing enough food while maintaining the resource base, and to ensure access to food through poverty eradication, safety nets and food assistance. In addressing the problem of metropolitan areas, the 101st IPU Conference, held in Brussels in 1999, considered an FAO paper on the topic "Feeding the cities". Future cooperation between IPU and FAO will be concentrated on promoting national parliamentary action in support of food security for all, in particular through the development of appropriate legislative frameworks, parliamentary oversight and facilitation of the involvement of all sectors of civil society.

C. Social development

22. IPU and the United Nations Institute for Social Development cooperated closely in the preparation of a survey of parliamentary action in follow up to the World Summit for Social Development.[6] The conclusions and recommendations emerging from this survey, accompanied by a synopsis of respondents' data, were published in the form of a booklet on the eve of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly.

23. In addition to the meeting mentioned in paragraph 10 above, IPU contributed to the symposium on partnerships for social development in a globalizing world, which was held at Geneva under the aegis of the Swiss authorities, as part of the programme of parallel activities of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly.

24. IPU and the Economic Commission for Africa have held discussions over the past year with a view to establishing a form through which African parliamentarians can provide an input into the development management process. A meeting will be held at Addis Ababa in November 2000 to move the process forward.

D. Trade and development

25. IPU cooperated closely with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) during the preparations for the Tenth

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in February 2000. To endow this important event with a parliamentary dimension, IPU organized a parliamentary meeting on the occasion, hosted by the National Assembly of Thailand as part of the official related events. In the final declaration adopted at the IPU meeting, legislators called upon all parliaments and their members to become more closely involved in the international negotiating process on trade, finance and development. The final declaration opened new avenues for further cooperation between IPU and UNCTAD in the future; these include plans to convene workshops for parliamentarians, sponsored by UNCTAD, and the preparation by IPU of a world directory of parliamentary bodies dealing with issues of trade, finance and development.

26. Discussions continued between the World Trade Organization and IPU on ways in which to facilitate some form of interaction between members of parliament who deal with international trade issues and the World Trade Organization.

E. Child labour

27. As part of the ongoing cooperation between ILO and IPU, a joint campaign was launched to ensure speedy ratification by parliaments of the Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and its accompanying Recommendation. The letter sent to that end to all parliaments by the heads of the two organizations stressed the legally binding nature of the Convention, which obliges the States ratifying it to take all necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of its provisions.

F. Migrant workers

28. At its Conference held at Berlin in October 1999, IPU launched an appeal for the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and advocated full respect for the human and workers' rights of this group.

G. Combating desertification

29. IPU continued its association with the work of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa. In this context, it sponsored a second round-table meeting of parliamentarians, organized by the Convention secretariat and devoted to the role of parliamentarians in regard to policies on education, culture and science, for the implementation of the Convention. This meeting, convened on the occasion of the third session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention held at Recife, Brazil, in November 1999, called for the establishment of a follow-up mechanism in the form of an open-ended high-level forum of members of parliament committed to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention.

H. Human immunodeficiency virus/ acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

30. A *Handbook for Legislators on HIV/AIDS, Law and Human Rights* was produced in 1999 by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), in collaboration with IPU. The Handbook is designed to assist parliamentarians in promulgating and enacting effective legislation and undertaking appropriate law reforms in the fight against AIDS. UNAIDS contributed the technical and legal contents, while IPU lent it a parliamentary dimension by helping to compile a record of parliamentary experience in enforcing the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights.[7]

V. International law and human rights

A. Ratification of treaties

31. As a further joint effort, the Secretary-General welcomes the support that IPU has given to his initiative to request Heads of State to take the opportunity of the Millennium Summit to sign international instruments deposited with the Secretary-General. The special call by IPU to all parliaments in July 2000 has borne fruit, with some parliaments

immediately consulting their Governments about the status of certain treaties and the possibilities to accede to them.

B. Respect for the rules of international humanitarian law

32. IPU marked the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the main instrument of international humanitarian law, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, by adopting a resolution at its Conference held at Berlin in October 1999.[3] In that resolution, the Conference urged States to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law by negotiating, ratifying and implementing appropriate treaties and establishing mechanisms to enhance the protection of civilians in armed conflicts, to align national laws and regulations with international humanitarian standards, and to comply strictly and ensure compliance with their humanitarian obligations.

33. Together with the International Committee of the Red Cross, IPU issued a handbook for parliamentarians, *Respect for international humanitarian law*.[5] The handbook is the first in a new IPU series of didactic tools to assist parliaments and their members to fulfil their key role in securing respect for international humanitarian law.

C. Child soldiers

34. Echoing recent United Nations initiatives to protect children from armed conflict, the UPU Conference, in the resolution adopted at Berlin, urged States to take all feasible measures to ensure that children under 18 years of age do not take part in hostilities or military action, and are not recruited under compulsion into the armed forces. It also took a stand in favour of the early adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

D. Sanctions

35. At its Conference held at Amman in April/May 2000, IPU discussed the issue of sanctions and their effects on civilian populations, and adopted, without a vote, a resolution on achieving peace, stability and comprehensive development in the world and forging closer political, economic and cultural ties among peoples. In that resolution, the Conference requested the abolition of the types of sanctions that hit civilians, and especially children, the hardest. As an important political expression by parliament on this issue, the resolution was brought to the attention of the General Assembly (see A/54/968, annex).

E. Punishment for violations of the rules of international humanitarian law, and International Criminal Court

36. Considerable political support for the United Nations international criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda was mobilized by IPU, especially at its Conference held at Berlin in October 1999.[3] IPU member parliaments have reiterated the importance of supporting and cooperating with ongoing efforts to prosecute and try those accused of violating international humanitarian law.

37. The above-mentioned Conference also served as a venue at which IPU renewed its call upon States to maintain a firm commitment to the ideals of the International Criminal Court and further encouraged States to sign and ratify, as soon as possible and preferably without reservations, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and to adjust their laws and regulations to the requirements of the Statute. The matter is also addressed from a practical angle in the handbook referred to in paragraph 33 above.

F. Refugees and displaced persons

38. In the resolution on the rights of refugees and persons displaced by war,[4] adopted at Amman in April/May 2000, the IPU Conference reaffirmed the fundamental importance of the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, and called upon States that had not yet acceded to those instruments to do so. The Conference also called upon all States to fulfil their consequent obligations. It further expressed support for United Nations action to secure respect for the human rights of refugees and displaced persons and appealed to parliaments to pursue cooperative and innovative action with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in order to strengthen the framework for international protection. IPU and

UNHCR are currently producing a joint handbook for parliamentarians on respect for international refugee law, as part of the celebration in 2001 of the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention. Also, IPU is contributing to UNHCR initiatives aimed at celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, through the identification of parliamentarians who are former refugees.

G. Transnational organized crime

39. In the above-mentioned resolution, IPU supported the early completion of the draft United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and its protocol concerning trafficking of persons.

H. Human rights

40. As a first joint effort to put into practice the memorandum of understanding signed in July 1999 between the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and IPU, the Office of the High Commissioner and IPU organized, early in August 2000, a subregional north-east Asia workshop on parliaments and human rights. The event enabled participating members of parliament from the five countries concerned to explore and discuss strategies for the more effective promotion and protection of human rights at the national level and in the region.

41. As a further step towards enhancing cooperation within the framework of the above-mentioned agreement, discussions are under way regarding the publication of a series of handbooks for parliamentarians on human rights, the first of which is to deal with general human rights issues.

42. IPU called upon all parliaments to participate actively in the preparations for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in 2001, and to make available the necessary funds. Moreover, IPU is looking into the possibility of holding a complementary parliamentary meeting, in cooperation with the Parliament of South Africa.

43. IPU welcomed the proposal by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to convene jointly a meeting of representatives of human rights parliamentary bodies, government and the United Nations at Geneva in 2001. Preparations for this event have been initiated.

44. In July 2000, a meeting was held between the respective chairpersons of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and the Human Rights Committee, established under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with a view to strengthening the cooperation between them and reinforcing the consistency in their jurisprudence.

45. The *Human Development Report 2000*,[9] centring on the interrelationship between human rights and human development, drew upon data and a background analysis made available by IPU in the areas of women in politics, parliamentary democracy and governance. IPU is planning a parliamentary launch of this report as a means of promoting awareness of it among legislators.

VI. Democracy, governance and gender issues

46. The efforts of IPU described below continued to be a priority feature of its work and have given rise to many opportunities for concrete cooperation with the United Nations.

A. Democracy and good governance

47. During the period under review, IPU, working in close cooperation with UNDP, continued to provide the United Nations with its expertise in the development of democratic processes and institutions, through the implementation of programmes in various parts of the world, primarily in Africa, and Asia and the Pacific.

48. The IPU Programme of Assistance to Parliaments, implemented mainly with UNDP funding (70 per cent of ongoing projects), is aimed at strengthening parliamentary institutions and processes in Burundi, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, the Gambia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Rwanda, Tajikistan, Viet Nam and Yemen. Joint efforts in this field are increasing as more requests are addressed by parliaments to IPU and UNDP.

49. The Programme also included an inter-African seminar on parliament and the national budget, including from a gender perspective, held at Nairobi in

May 2000. The seminar was organized in cooperation with UNDP and with the involvement of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Like those of the previous inter-African seminar (see A/54/379, para. 17), the guidelines emerging from the event provided useful material for the broader guidelines which are to be developed following similar events in other regions and which are already in preparation.

50. Work also continued on the preparation of a study on standards of conduct in public life, which will focus on the link between conduct in public life and democracy. The study is being developed, with the support of UNDP, as one of the tools to promote good governance.

51. At its Conference held at Berlin in October 1999, IPU placed special emphasis on the right of all ethnic, cultural or religious minorities to participate in legislative elections and to have their say in the political decision-making process, in keeping with their democratic rights.[3]

52. In 1999, in cooperation with UNESCO, IPU studied the increasing impact of new communications technology on the way in which legislative institutions interact with the electorate and civil society. IPU developed its own guidelines on the contents and structure of parliamentary web sites; the guidelines should help parliaments to develop informative and interactive sites which will enhance institutional dialogue with citizens.

53. Future plans involve the expansion of the resources and geographical scope of the IPU Programme. It will thus require strengthened cooperation among IPU, UNDP and UNIFEM, among others.

54. At the IPU Conference held at Amman, the governing bodies requested the Secretary-General of IPU to explore the possibility of providing a parliamentary dimension to UNDP in the area of governance. Discussions have already been initiated between the Secretary-General of IPU and the Administrator of UNDP on ways in which to achieve this.

B. Gender issues

55. The Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat worked in close cooperation with IPU throughout the year on a number of initiatives.

56. In consultation with the Division, IPU conducted a world survey of parliaments and the political parties represented in them, regarding their follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women. With the financial assistance of UNDP, it issued a survey on that subject,[10] which complemented the information collected by the Division from Governments. IPU also conducted interviews of women politicians throughout the world on their experience in politics and the impact they made, issuing a survey of major interest to guide the future work of the Division and UNIFEM in the field.[11] The public launching of both studies took place on the occasion of the forty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

57. Also in preparation for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women briefed women parliamentarians at a special meeting, held during the IPU Conference at Amman in April/May 2000.

58. An important output of cooperation on women's issues between the two organizations in 2000 was the joint production, on the occasion of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, of a poster-size world map,[12] depicting the presence of women in the executive and legislative branches of government. The colour-coded map utilizes data from a world survey conducted by IPU and is meant as a powerful visual tool to raise awareness about the unequal presence of women in politics. Through the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, the partner of IPU in this initiative, the map has been distributed to all United Nations information centres and agencies throughout the world. Arrangements have also been made, in cooperation with IPU, for the map to become a standing feature of the United Nations web site.

59. IPU also contributed very substantially to the most recent issue of *The World's Women 2000: Trends and Statistics*[13] issued on the occasion of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

60. In March 2000, with support from UNDP, IPU launched a new online bibliographical database to support research into the instruments, plans of action, studies and literature on women's participation in politics, available in international organizations and in some 100 countries.

61. The implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women benefited greatly from the gender focal points that IPU has helped to establish in parliaments. The function of these focal points is to liaise with national authorities on issues related to the Convention, making them more sensitive to the need for its implementation and more responsive to parliamentary input. IPU is encouraging ratification of the recently adopted Optional Protocol to the Convention. Discussions on ways to enhance cooperation on this issue are ongoing between IPU and UNIFEM.

VII. Secretariat arrangements

62. Working relations between the United Nations Secretariat and that of IPU were strengthened, partly as a result of increased coordination through the IPU Liaison Office in New York. Several practical arrangements were institutionalized in the course of 2000 to improve sharing of information, logistical support and policy coordination.

63. On the information side, reciprocal access to documentation and meeting information was facilitated. IPU meetings that are held in close cooperation with the United Nations are now listed in the Integrated Meeting and Documentation Information System (IMDIS), an innovative online database being developed by the Information Support Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *NewsFront*, a web-based news bulletin of UNDP, has served as a venue for the promotion of the IPU technical cooperation and publication activities that have a particular bearing on the work of the United Nations and its programmes. The Department of Public Information has also worked very closely with the IPU secretariat to issue press releases and other products to promote joint activities between the United Nations and IPU. In terms of logistics, all key departments (Conference Services, Security and Protocol, Public Information and Buildings Management) contributed to the preparation of IPU activities conducted on United Nations premises.

VIII. Concluding remarks

64. Having reviewed the cooperation between IPU and the United Nations in the past twelve months, the Secretary-General is highly appreciative of the achievements to date, which he considers impressive and encouraging. He looks forward to an enhanced development of the parliamentary dimension to the work of the United Nations, and expresses the hope that the increasingly close and productive relationship between the United Nations and IPU may soon also be recognized through a new, strengthened and formalized relationship between IPU and the General Assembly.

Notes

[1] *Participation of Women in Political Life: An Assessment of Developments in National Parliaments, Political Parties, Governments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Five Years after the Fourth World Conference on Women* (IPU, 1999), and *Enhancing Social Development: A Review of Parliamentary Action to Implement the Commitments Made at the World Summit for Social Development* (IPU, 2000).

[2] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I, sect. C.

[3] Resolution of the IPU Conference on the contribution of parliaments to ensuring respect for and promoting international humanitarian law on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Geneva Convention, and report of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law.

[4] Resolution of the IPU Conference on support of parliaments for the rights of refugees and persons displaced by war and occupation, and assistance with a view to their repatriation, and for international cooperation to develop and implement strategies to combat the criminal activity of people smuggling.

[5] General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex.

[6] *Enhancing Social Development: A Review of Parliamentary Action to Implement the Commitments Made at the World Summit for Social Development* (IPU, 1999).

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 3* (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1997/33, annex.

[8] IPU and International Committee of the Red Cross, 1999.

[9] Published for UNDP by Oxford University Press, New York, 2000.

[10] *Participation of Women in Political Life: An Assessment ...*

[11] *Politics: Women's Insight* (IPU, 2000).

[12] *Women in Politics: 2000* (IPU and Department of Public Information, United Nations Secretariat, 2000).

[13] United Nations publication, Sales No. 00.XVII.14.